and to improve the service delivery system, for the rural population in the States of Assam, Karnataka and Rajasthan to achieve reduction in birth rate and maternal and infant mortality levels. The project provides for the construction, furnishing and equipping of rural health facilities like Sub- centres, Primary Health Centres, District and State Level Training Centres, Warehouses and upgradation of facilities of facilities. The project also provides for training health and family welfare services providers, IEC and innovative schemes. A proposal to enhance the cost of the project from Rs. 335.00 crores to Rs. 414.06 crores to facilitate completion of the project activities and to meet the escalated cost has been approved recently. The States are implementing the projects as per the revised approved costs.

Undue increments and pay protection to JNU employees

3497. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of HRD has allowed the JNU to grant undue increments to its employees from the year 1986 and protection of pay upto the maximum of grade and personal pay beyond that;

(b) if so, under which Government rule/policy; and

(c) if not, what action Government propose to recover the undue payment made to JNU employees?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) No undue benefit has been provided to the teaching employees of the University. However, with regard to the non-teaching staff, the University had approved second upward Movement Scheme and Personal Pay Scale Scheme on 12.7.1996 and 2.7.1997 respectively with the approval of their Executive Council and implemented with effect from 1.1.1996. However, the Government of India has allowed the revision of pay scales as per the recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission and as per the terms and conditions laid down by UGC only.

Merger of Mahila Samriddhi Yojana and Indira Mahila Yojana

3498. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two schemes viz. Mahila Samriddhi Yojana

(MSY) and Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) for women empowerment were to be recast and merged, at least two years ago, to make them more effective;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Mahila Samriddhi Yojana introduced in 1993 to inculcate saving among rural women was abandoned in 1997;

(c) if so, the reasons for disbanding Mahila Samriddhi Yojana in 1997; and

(d) the reasons as to why Mahila Samriddhi Yojana has not been merged with Indira Mahila Yojana which too involves mobilization of women into self-help groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is a proposal to recast and merge Indira Mahila Yojana and Mahila Samriddhi Yojana.

(b) and (c) Opening of any new account under Mahila Samriddhi Yojana was discontinued after 31st March, 1997 because of its high operational costs.

(d) The proposal to merge Indira Mahila Yojana and Mahila Samriddhi Yojana is under consideration. It envisages the mobilization of women into self-help groups for income generation, awareness generation and convergence of various activities. This is with a long-term aim of their social and economic empowerment.

Recruitment Rules for Director, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

3499. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recruitment rules for the post of Director, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti provide, *inter alia*, for appointment of eminent educationists;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to publicise the vacancy so as to attract attention of such celebrities;

(c) whether allegations against the present incumbent have been got probed; and

(d) if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?